

In this regard, Applicants submit that Claim 7 reads on the non-elected Species II, which the Office Action indicates corresponds to Figure 15. As is discussed at page 25, lines 9 to 12 of the present application, Figure 15 implements the two-dimensional interpolation processing of step S5-3 in Figure 5, and includes the step of performing non-linear approximation of an ink quantity contour line as part of the two-dimensional interpolation processing. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the two species identified in the Office Action are close to each other in subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Species I and II should be examined together in the present application.

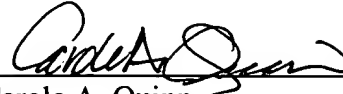
Finally, the election requirement is traversed on the ground that there would not be undue burden in examining both species in the present application. As is discussed above, the two species are closely related with respect to their subject matter. In addition, it has always been Applicants' prerogative to present claims to a reasonable number of species, as the term "reasonable" is used in 37 C.F.R. § 1.141(a). In this case, two species have been identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not be unduly burdensome on the Examiner to examine Claim 7 together with Claims 1 to 6 and 8 to 10 of elected Species I.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the maintenance and examination of all claims in the same application is reasonable and is not believed to be unduly burdensome on the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Election Of Species Requirement are respectfully requested.

Applicants undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to

our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carole A. Quinn", is written over a horizontal line.

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